

Mermaids In Pollution

a comedy sketch idea by Jonathan D Steinhoff © 2.9.16

DARRYL, an environmental scientist, is working at his water pollution sampling and testing by a secluded ocean cove. A GIANT FROG comes up to him apprehensively, but it relaxes as DARRYL begins talking to it, DARRYL speaking hesitantly at first, gradually opening up more and more. DARRYL explains to the GIANT FROG about how his wife, Linda, surprised him the other day when she couldn't be home in time for dinner. After hesitating for a moment, DARRYL continues, describing how she's a good woman, and has been doing that not being home for dinner stuff a lot lately, but it's okay. The GIANT FROG nods understandingly. DARRYL suddenly gets a call on his phone and politely tells the GIANT FROG he has to take it, causing the GIANT FROG to nod understandingly again. Only hearing DARRYL's end of the phone conversation, we get that he has just learned from Linda that something just came up and she can't be home for dinner again that evening. When we cut back to the 2-shot, instead of a GIANT FROG it is now a DOLPHIN. DARRYL continues talking to the DOLPHIN as if it is the GIANT FROG. DARRYL explains what just happened to the DOLPHIN, his words further indicating he has picked up where he left off just as if it is still the GIANT FROG. DARRYL seems almost mortified by the news from Linda, but he talks up a good game with the DOLPHIN, who talks, and is sympathetic to everything DARRYL says. DARRYL doesn't think he has let on that this is the straw that is breaking his heart. He politely tells the DOLPHIN he has to make a call. Only hearing DARRYL's side of the conversation, we find he is telling his boss, BURT, that he is now free to meet that evening to discuss the newly discovered serious water pollution issue he's been screaming about that apparently exists, based on Darryl's tests. However, BURT apparently is no longer free, something came up, so no meeting, in spite of DARRYL now being free, as his wife Linda wouldn't be coming home for dinner. When we cut back to the 2-shot, the DOLPHIN has been replaced by SALLY THE MERMAID, a somewhat overweight mermaid, who is touching DARRYL flirtatiously. DARRYL continues talking as if it is still the DOLPHIN, and SALLY listens sympathetically as occurred before with the DOLPHIN and the GIANT FROG. DARRYL is in denial, pretending he doesn't care that Linda can't be home for dinner once again or if Burt is unavailable to meet, again, which has apparently also occurred on a recent previous occasion the same time Linda couldn't be home. It seems as if DARRYL may gradually be putting together that Burt and Linda are having an affair behind his back despite the denial. This triggers a bigger break in DARRYL, as he goes into higher gear with his pretense of not caring, and that SALLY THE MERMAID is there, becoming more and more amorous. The phone rings again, and DARRYL can barely pick it up, so engrossed have he and SALLY become. We hear DARRYL saying enough into the phone to indicate Linda just told him something's come up, she suddenly has to leave town for a week and go to the Bahamas. DARRYL is mortified, and protests that this seems so unlikely, that Linda's mother should catch ill and need Linda by her side as she recuperates in the Bahamas, why couldn't she get a neighbor from the Bronx to go with her. When we cut back from the 1-shot of DARRYL, he no longer resists passionately making out with SALLY and now MOLLY, a second overweight mermaid now having joined them. Again the phone rings, and despite the physical entwinements, DARRYL manages, barely, without stopping, to answer. From what we hear on DARRYL's side of the conversation, Burt is cancelling their new postponed meeting date as well, as something just came up for that day also. DARRYL expresses the urgency of their need to meet, the water pollution is serious, an emergency perhaps, they really have to discuss this. The marine life is at serious risk. Suddenly DARRYL is told Burt absolutely is unable to meet, he has to go the Bahamas for a week, and that's all there is to it. DARRYL drops the phone, no longer able to pretend he doesn't see the truth, or pretend he doesn't care what she does. When we cut back to the 3-shot, SALLY and MOLLY, who are in the water, are dead. DARRYL is calling to the phone on the ground incoherently, of how serious the water pollution is, it could kill the marine life, dead, Burt has to do something. We go from the 1-shot of DARRYL to a 2-shot with the GIANT FROG once again. DARRYL resumes talking as if nothing has happened, explaining to the GIANT FROG that the water pollution isn't serious, Burt is right not to let it be a big thing, Burt knows what he's doing, DARRYL reproaches himself, he should just be doing what he's told, a statement the GIANT FROG supports DARRYL in...

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